



Sprouts

Learn More About the Interpretive Programs

Did you know that the average age of the builders of Timberline Lodge was 56? That a majority of the workers were unskilled in the beginning? What does a Campfire Girl guidebook have to do with Timberline? Curious as to why this National Historic Landmark is one of Oregon's top tourist attractions? All of these questions and more are answered by taking advantage of the free interpretive programs offered by the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Last summer, weekly campfire programs, wildflower walks and guided tours and programs at Timberline Lodge hosted over 40,000 visitors on the Zigzag District alone. Winter months are quieter, but tours and fireplace programs are still offered on weekends at the Lodge. This spring, look for an increase in both number and type of programs offered.

While touring the Lodge with a Forest Service Interpreter, visitors not only discover how the lodge was built but also how it represents the change and growth of its creators. Tours are offered several times per day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Fireplace programs are casual and address topics such as geology of the Cascades or Timberline history. These programs are held in the evenings and offer an opportunity to enjoy the after hours ambiance of the Lodge.

Incredibly, these opportunities are staffed almost entirely by volunteers. As a result, the number and type of programs depend heavily on available volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for the Interpretation Program, please contact Michelle Franulovich at the Zigzag Ranger District (503) 622-3191, ext. 610. Volunteers are provided training on local biology, geology, cultural history and public speaking.

Plan Amendment to Remove the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (collectively the Agencies) will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to meet the requirements of a Settlement Agreement pursuant to a lawsuit by Douglas Timber Operators against the Forest Service and BLM. The proposed action, generally, is to change the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan), currently included in planning documents of the Forest Service and BLM. Specifically, the Agencies propose to remove the Survey and Manage mitigation measure standards and guidelines. Habitat needs of the affected rare or little known species would rely on other elements of the Northwest Forest Plan and the existing Forest Service Sensitive Species and the BLM Special Status Species programs, as needed and appropriate. The proposed action would amend land and resource management plans for National Forests and BLM Districts within the range of the northern spotted owl (generally western Oregon and Washington, and north-western California). This action will be addressed in a SEIS because the affected species and their management were specifically addressed in the Agency's SEIS for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, issued in November, 2000, and because the species and their habitat were also addressed in the SEIS for the Northwest Forest Plan, issued in February, 1994. Notice of this proposal was first published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2002.

Draft SEIS: January 31, 2003; *Public Comment Period:* February 1, 2003—May 1, 2003; *Final SEIS:* June 20, 2003; *Record of Decision:* July 25, 2003.

For more information on this proposal or to receive a copy of the draft SEIS, write to: Survey and Manage SEIS Team, PO Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208.

40/60 – Project may create openings-larger than the 40 or 60 acre limitations stipulated by the National Forest Management Act, 36 CFR 219.27. Such creation requires 60 day public notification and approval of the Regional Forester.

CCF – 100 cubic feet

CE – Categorical Exclusion

EA – Environmental Assessment

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

Forest-Wide Projects

Tamarack Rock Quarry Expansion EIS

Contact: Mike Redmond

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The Proposed Action includes expansion of the existing Tamarack rock quarry (formerly called Mud Creek) on approximately 60 acres of National Forest System land. The proposal may also include road improvements on the access road to the quarry. The rock excavated from the quarry would be used over time by the Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation to help meet the long-term needs of maintenance, and reconstruction of roads in the Mt. Hood area.

The project area is located approximately 4 miles south of Government Camp, in Section 2, T.4S, R.8-1/2E, Willamette Meridian, Clackamas County, Oregon. The project area does not include any wilderness, roadless areas, wild and scenic rivers, late successional reserves, or riparian reserves.

Some of the preliminary issues that have been identified include visual quality as seen from key view points on the Forest, and traffic management conflict between commercial use and recreation.

The draft EIS is planned to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by March 2003. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the Federal Register. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the NOA appears in the Federal Register.

MBF – 1,000 board feet

MMBF – 1,000,000 board feet

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

VEG – This symbol indicates a project that may include treatment of unwanted vegetation. When a site-specific project to prevent or treat unwanted vegetation is being considered, the official responsible for that project is to notify the public.

Forest-Wide Projects

Watershed Restoration 2003

Contact: John Dodd

Hood River Ranger Station,

6780 Highway 35, Parkdale, OR 97041

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: jdodd@fs.fed.us

In the last issue of *Sprouts* we described a project called Watershed Restoration 2003. At this time we have a list of projects that are in the developmental stage. We still must do field surveys for plants and animals and heritage resources, as well as other detailed analyses of the costs, impacts and benefits of the projects. The final list of projects may be pared down somewhat depending on what we find. The following is intended to give you a feel for the types of projects being considered.

- **Fish Passage Projects**

Certain culverts at road/stream crossings partially or totally block fish passage. Includes culvert replacement or culvert removal so that fish can get through to access habitat on the other side. Includes 53 culverts.

- **Ditch to Pipe Conversions**

Irrigation ditches leak and occasionally wash out. Pipes would be installed to transport water, reducing seepage and erosion. Includes Wolf Run Ditch and Lyda's Ditch.

- **Fencing**

Includes fencing of meadows and sensitive areas to control the movement of livestock. Two fences are included.

- **Wildlife and Vegetation Management Projects**

- Oaks would be released by cutting small conifers.
- Snags would be created from live trees by girdling, topping, and heart rot inoculation.
- Down Woody Debris would be created by felling trees in areas that are deficient.
- Roads would be closed to reduce harassment.
- Meadows would be restored by removing encroaching young conifers.

- **Rock Quarry and Gravel Stockpile Restoration**

Includes the addition of soil, reestablishment of natural drainage patterns and revegetation. Three areas would be restored.

- **In-stream Projects**

Includes the addition of logs or boulders into streams to create pools and improve diversity.

- **Riparian Projects**

Includes riparian planting and thinning in the dry upland areas near streams.

- **Road Stabilization and Repair**

Includes deep patch repairs of cracking and sinking roadways, resurfacing and erosion control. Twenty-three miles of roads would be repaired.

- **Road Decommissioning**

Includes the removal of gravel and culverts (if any) and deep ripping, water barring, and revegetating. Twelve miles of roads would be decommissioned.

Project descriptions and maps are available at the Mt. Hood National Forest web site. Look under Forest Projects at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>.

It is anticipated that an Environmental Assessment will be completed some time in 2003.

We are continuing to implement the restoration projects from last year's EA as funding becomes available. Last year's EA and the prioritization model can be viewed at our web site under Forest Publications.

Barlow Ranger District Projects

Juncrock Planning Area

Contact: *Becky Nelson*

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: *bnelson@fs.fed.us*

The draft EIS is scheduled for completion during the spring of 2003. Individuals who have given comments will receive a copy of the draft document..

Knebal Springs Trail Reconstruction

Contact: *Dennis Beechler*

Phone: (541) 328-6211

Email: *dbeechler@fs.fed.us*

The project review team has been out in the field and has relocated the proposed trail, and is shortening the reconstruction length. The existing trail is open to horses, mountain bikes, and hikers. Relocation will minimize trail maintenance and provide a better recreation experience. The crossings will be constructed on the existing trail. One will be a two-stringer decked bridge and the other will consist of cobble placed in the streambed itself. Both of these stream crossings will reduce the amount of sedimentation into Fivemile Creek. Work is continuing on this project.

Swisher/West Gobbler Underburn (1,480 acres)

Contact: *Mel Gard*

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: *mgard@fs.fed.us*

Analysis of the underburns is continuing. The Barlow Ranger District is proposing to burn approximately 2,200 acres in two different areas. The objective is to introduce fire back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, prevent the arc build-up around the base of large ponderosa pine, and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs, and shrub species. Underburning will enhance deer and elk forage quantity and quality, reduce risk of a stand replacing fire, and protect large ponderosa trees from the effects of future underburning. Required surveys for these projects have been completed. Final field verifications are being completed.

Precommercial Thinning (TSI) CE

Contact: *Edan Lira*

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: *elira@fs.fed.us*

A Categorical Exclusion (CE) will be prepared for approximately 3,800 acres of precommercial thinning. Work will be accomplished over the next five years. Precommercial thinning, thinning trees less than eight inches in diameter, promotes forest health, species diversity, increases growth and wood quality, and reduces susceptibility of treated stands to fire, insect and disease problems. A decision is expected by early spring, 2003.

Cattle Guard Replacement on Forest Development Roads 48 and 43

Contact: *Tamara Shannon or Michael Mornault*

Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext 628 or 640

Email: *tshannon@fs.fed.us or mmornault@fs.fed.us*

East Side Engineering is proposing to replace up to 6 cattle guards, to relocate up to 2 of those 6 and reconnect the associated fencing. Five of the cattle guards are located on the 48 road on the Barlow Ranger District and one is on the 43 road, the boundary between Barlow and Hood River Districts. All are located in Wasco County.

The replacements are needed because all of the cattle guards are structurally failing incrementally and could be a danger in the future. The two cattle guards proposed for relocating is because one is on a curve in the road and the other is located where drivers brake to initiate a turn onto another commonly traveled road into Sportsman's park.

A Categorical Exclusion, Design and Contract are planned to do this winter and the work to be done in the summer of 2003.

Clackamas River Ranger District Projects

Thinning Program

Second-growth stands across the District are being examined for thinning opportunities. At this time four planning areas are moving forward into the early stages of environmental analysis. Descriptions of the purpose and need, and the details of the proposed action including maps and photos are available on the Forest web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects.htm>

- **Upper Clackamas Area**

700 Acres

Contact: Jim Roden

Phone: (503) 630-8722

Email: jroden@fs.fed.us

- **South Fork Clackamas and Clear Creek Area**

590 Acres

Contact: Jim Roden

Phone: (503) 630-8722

Email: jroden@fs.fed.us

- **Oak Grove Area**

970 Acres

Contact: Don Davison

Phone: (503) 630-8742

Email: ddavison@fs.fed.us

- **Collawash Area**

340 Acres

Contact: Don Davison

Phone: (503) 630-8742

Email: ddavison@fs.fed.us

Whalehead Communications Site

Contact: Glenda Woodcock

Phone: (503) 630-8724

Email: gwoodcock@fs.fed.us

Clackamas County, Oregon, Whalehead Mountain, Sec. 30 T.5S., R.6E.

This is a re-issuance of a Special Use Permit (long-term lease) for an existing communications site at Whalehead Mountain. The existing buildings and improvements are privately owned and maintained subject to conditions of the permit.

Douglas Hydro

Contact: Glenda Woodcock

Phone: (503) 630-8724

Email: gwoodcock@fs.fed.us

Clackamas County, Oregon, Sec. 33, T.5S., R.7E.

This is a re-issuance of a Special Use Permit (long-term lease) for existing facilities associated with Canyon Creek Small Hydro Project. This permit covers 3.75 acres and involves operating and maintaining access roads, transmission lines, canals, powerhouse, generating plant and related facilities.

Verizon Wireless Cellular Repeater Facility at Sisi Butte

Contact: Glenda Woodcock

Phone: (503) 630-8724

Email: gwoodcock@fs.fed.us

Clackamas County, Oregon, Sec. 9, T.8S., R.8E., W.M. Verizon Wireless has requested renewal of their permit to operate their repeater facility at Sisi Butte. No modifications are proposed by Verizon to the existing building, tower, or other portions of the existing site. Verizon is proposing an upgrade to their equipment by adding two antennas to the existing tower.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment on these projects, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality.

Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified time-frame.

Hood River Ranger District Projects

Trail Reconstruction Projects

Contact: Kevin Slagle

Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext 605

Email: kslagle@fs.fed.us

The Hood River Ranger District proposes to reconstruct the following trails in the years 2002-2005.

- Pacific Crest Trail from Lolo Pass to Bald Mountain,
- Barlow Pass to Wapinitia,
- Palmateer Trail,
- Timberline Trail from Cloud Cap to White River, and
- Elk Cove to McNeil Point.

Most of the work would occur within the existing cleared trail area. During planning, some minor relocations may be identified for consideration.

Salmon River Fish Passage

Contact: Doug Jones

Phone: 541-352-6002, ext. 682

Email: dgjones@fs.fed.us

The Hood River Ranger District is proposing to authorize Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to remove a culvert under Highway 35 and replace it with a small bridge to improve fish passage. The culvert is used by the East Fork of the Salmon River located about 150 ft. from ODOT's Hwy 26/35 sand storage yard. The project would occur in 2004. A decision is expected in early 2003.

Bear Knoll Planning Area

T.4S., R.9E., Sec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36 and T.5S., R.9. 2, 3, 4, 10

Contact: Becky Nelson

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: bnelson01@fs.fed.us

This planning effort began in 1998. It has been put on hold for the last six months, while other work was being completed. Bear Knoll proposes to thin overstocked mature and immature stands through commercial timber sales and the sale of special forest products (post, poles and firewood). Over-mature stands, especially those heavily infected with Indian Paint Fungus, are proposed to be regenerated. Commercial thinning and restoration projects are proposed in the riparian reserve area of Frog Creek. Visual enhancement projects along Highway 26 are proposed. Removal of off-site ponder-

osa in a plantation is proposed. Temporary road construction, road closure and decommissioning are also proposed. An EIS will be completed during the spring of 2003.

Long Prairie Grazing Allotment

Contact: Dan Fissell

Phone: (541) 467-5117

Email: dfissell@fs.fed.us

An Environmental Assessment is scheduled for this grazing allotment during 2003. This analysis will determine the level and intensity of grazing management within this allotment. The plan will also identify restoration opportunities. The Decision Notice is anticipated in the summer/fall of 2003.

Mill Creek Planning Area

Contact: Becky Nelson

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: bnelson01@fs.fed.us

The Hood River Ranger District is proposing to treat approximately 7,200 acres located approximately five miles southeast of the community of Mount Hood. The purpose and need have been identified. Specialists concerns identified are:

- Forest condition due to the lack of fire over the last 100 years.
- The invasion of non-native plant species.
- The high level of roading and the resulting wildlife harassment and poaching.
- Aquatic habitat degradation due to roads and grazing operations.

A decision is expected in the fall of 2003.

Zigzag Ranger District Projects

Lady Creek Water Line Replacement and Permit Renewal

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 668

Email: pnorman@fs.fed.us

The Lady Creek Water District is replacing approximately 4,000' of water line within the District's recreation residence tracts. Project implementation is planned for the summer of 2003. The special use permit for the water district has expired and needs to be renewed. The Forest Service is evaluating reissuing the special use permit to the current permittee to allow for continued use of the water system collection and transmission facilities on National Forest Lands.

Timberline Ski Area Timberline Express Lift and Ski Trail System R 9E, T 3S, SW1/4, Section 7

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

Based on both agency and public scoping responses, we will be developing alternatives to the proposed action. The proposed action consists of constructing a new detachable quad (four passenger) chairlift and 6 new trails in the southwest corner of the ski area's special use permit boundary. The proposal also includes an addition of approximately 10 acres to the existing 1,400-acre permit boundary. A draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and available for public review by August 2003.

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp Facility Improvements

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

The Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp proposes to upgrade existing facilities and construct new facilities as authorized in the camp's approved Master Development Plan. The improvements are needed to better serve the camp's primary client base (children and adults with mental and physical disabilities). A new 30-year term permit would be reissued to the Camp. The proposal does not represent an expansion of the permit boundary, the authorized capacity or the authorized uses.

In an effort to better serve you and conserve resources and energy, *Sprouts* is available online. You can now view the most current issue of *Sprouts* on the Mt. Hood National Forest Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>

Mt. Hood National Forest Offices

Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters Office

16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055
Business: 503-668-1700
Visitor Information: **503-622-7674**
Hours: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Barlow Ranger District

780 NE Court Street
Dufur, OR 97021
Phone: **541-467-2291**
Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Clackamas River Ranger District

595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023
Business: **503-630-6861**
Visitor Information: **503-630-8700**
Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-Sat
Closed weekends during winter months.

Hood River Ranger District

6780 Highway 35
Mt. Hood - Parkdale, OR 97041
Phone: **541-352-6002**
Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F
Summer Hours: May 30 - Sept. 6
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, 7 days a week

Zigzag Ranger District

70220 E. Highway 26
Zigzag, OR 97049
Business: **503-622-3191 or
503-668-1704**
Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Mt. Hood Information Center

*Forest Service Information in partnership
with Clackamas County and Mt. Hood
Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor
Information*
65000 E. Highway 26
Welches, OR 97067
Phone: **503-622-7674**
Hours:
Saturday thru Thursday, 8 am-4 pm;
Friday 8 am-6 pm
(Closed Dec 25)



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